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PCT/EP2003/000220



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1108-3/04a HKS-Klink	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/000220	International filing date (day/month/year) 11 January 2003 (11.01.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 February 2002 (19.02.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E05B 65/12		
Applicant HUF HÜLSBECK & FÜRST GMBH & CO.KG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22 August 2003 (22.08.2003)	Date of completion of this report 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-12 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 19 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-18 _____, filed with the letter of 22 August 2003 (22.08.2003)

- the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ 1/11-11/11 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The application relates to a lock, in particular for vehicle doors or the like, as per the preamble of independent claim 1. It concerns a lock with a motor-driven opening means and a mechanism which, by changing the direction of rotation, actuates and deactuates the power output paths.

However, the closest prior art, for example DE-A-10043574 (D1) which is known from the international search report, has not been cited in the description.

The characterising part of the independent claim gives a very detailed description of an arrangement which is intended to prevent the lock from relocking too soon, before the door has been opened. For example, the spring-loaded rotary locking mechanism might freeze up in winter. An opening signal would control the detent long enough for the rotary locking mechanism to open; however, if the rotary locking mechanism does not move, or moves too slowly, it could be relocked by the detent.

An arrangement of this type (that prevents relocking from occurring too soon) is known *per se* (see for example

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D2: DE-A-19650826, or D4: DE-A-19617428 which is known from the international search report but not cited in the description). However, none of the documents contains anything to suggest the features of such an arrangement, in combination, for the specific purpose of connecting the drive mechanism. It would therefore seem very contrived to argue that there is no inventive step.

The technical effect is further described in the application (see page 4, lines 4-26).

Thus, a lock as per claim 1 is neither known from the prior art nor rendered obvious thereby.

The features of claims 2-18, which are dependent on claim 1, are advantageous developments and are likewise neither known nor obvious.